Is Cloud Gaming a Way Back to Old Games?

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Returning to Roots

Plugging In

Gaming has changed over the years. A lot. Some of us have grown up playing Doom on DOS and Windows 95, jury rigging LAN parties together with cables. Others have grown up in the peak of *Halo's* and *Gears of War's* popularity, squeezing into an already packed couch for a heated multiplayer session, and even now there are gamers growing into the growth of online and eSports with the likes of *Apex Legends* and *Fortnite.* From early beginnings of the original Xbox console to the Xbox 360, Xbox One, and now the Xbox Series X, gaming has spanned not only generations of games, but generations of players.

With all these rapid changes in the past few years, the technological iterations and improvements of the consoles and personal computers that some of us grew up with, much of today's younger generation have been restricted in accessing older titles that we consider golden to our era of gaming. With *Halo Infinite's* rapidly approaching release date, it is put into even more perspective that many younger gamers have never even played a title in the Halo series. With consoles shifting to diskless, many of the titles sit on our shelves gathering dusk, now lying as mementos. It becomes difficulty to justify purchasing an older console just to revisit those memories.

However, with the advent of applications such as Xbox Cloud Gaming, being able to utilize the power and accessibility of the Cloud has allowed gamers not only a window to their past, but a doorway to share these classic experiences with a younger generation.

Anytime, Anywhere

My Xbox controller goes with me everywhere now. In a small side pack, if I'm waiting for an appointment at the doctor's or in my car waiting for traffic to subside. Xbox Cloud Gaming allows me to pull out a controller, plop down my phone, and start gaming whenever I want to. Long gone are the times of having to lug around a setup full of wires in a backpack, a television screen, and looking for an open plug. When I want to game, its here and now.

It isn't just the thought of accessibility that is important here, it is also what is accessible. Instead of having to dust off my old Xbox 360, the convenience of opening up some old favorites like *Gears of War 3* or *Fallout 3* without having to look for my copy. It's even better that I can resume a saved game exactly where I left off months or years ago (even if it might take a while to remember the controls). It's easy to show someone from a newer generation what these games really felt like in their prime.

Generational Gaming

At the time of this article's writing, we are only beginning to skim the surface of potential with Xbox Cloud Gaming as a whole. With Xbox Game Pass, we are given access not only to older titles on offer, but brand new titles almost at release. Xbox Cloud Gaming allows us to access games regardless of our personal hardware we have available, whether that be a modest work laptop to a souped-up gaming PC, Xbox Cloud Gaming bridges the gap for gamers to not only share their memories, but make new ones as well.

Interested in writing for the Xbox Ambassador's blog? Contact us here to learn more!